

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 26, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 27, 2006

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

## ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2433

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Negrete McLeod**  
**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chavez, DeVore, and Lieber)**

February 23, 2006

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An act relating to military and veterans, and making an appropriation therefor.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2433, as amended, Negrete McLeod. National Guard Family Resource Center ~~Pilot Program~~ Act.

Existing law establishes the Military Department comprised of the Office of the Adjutant General, the California National Guard, the State Military Reserve, the California Cadet Corps, and the Naval Militia. The department has specified powers and duties relating to military and veterans.

This bill would appropriate from the General Fund to the department the sum of ~~\$100,000~~ \$99,000 for the 2006–07 fiscal year ~~for a pilot program~~ to provide upgraded armory facilities and access at specified battalion headquarters armory locations *to support the creation of Family Resource Centers*, as provided.

This bill would require the department to make a report to the Legislature regarding the program and makes specified legislative findings and declarations in connection thereto.

Vote:  $\frac{2}{3}$ . Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the  
2     National Guard Family Resource Center ~~Pilot Program~~ Act.

3     SEC. 2. The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
4     following:

5     (a) The California National Guard serves essential public  
6     safety purposes and routinely supports state and local authorities  
7     in protecting the lives and property of the people of the state  
8     during periods of natural disaster and civil disturbance, and  
9     provides homeland security to the people of this state, as well as  
10    serving the nation as a reserve component of the Army and the  
11    Air Force.

12    (b) The California National Guard is a federally recognized  
13    military organization that is routinely asked by the President to  
14    perform dangerous duties in armed conflicts, contingency  
15    operations, mobilizations, war, and other emergencies of national  
16    significance.

17    (c) The California National Guard has a proud tradition of  
18    federal military service where thousands of Californians have  
19    answered the call to duty and served proudly, and thousands  
20    more continue to serve their nation at home and abroad.

21    (d) The families of the members of the California National  
22    Guard endure extraordinary hardships when the members are  
23    called to duty by the President.

24    (e) The spouses and family members of deployed members of  
25    the California National Guard also serve their state and their  
26    nation, often without adequate recognition of their own sacrifices  
27    and contributions to the public good.

28    (f) The spouses and family members of the California National  
29    Guard could further contribute to the public good and  
30    accomplishing the mission of deployed members of the  
31    California National Guard by improved communications with  
32    their deployed spouses and family members.

33    SEC. 3. (a) There is hereby appropriated from the General  
34    Fund to the Military Department, the sum of ~~one hundred~~  
35    ~~thousand dollars (\$100,000)~~ *ninety-nine thousand dollars*  
36    ~~(\$99,000)~~ for the 2006–07 fiscal year to support the creation of  
37    National Guard Family Resource Centers. These funds shall be  
38    provided to the Military Department to provide upgraded armory

1 facilities and access at the battalion headquarters armory  
2 locations in Azusa, Burbank, Fresno, Inglewood, Modesto, San  
3 Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Ana, and Walnut Creek.

4 (b) The Legislature understands that the cost of each center  
5 shall be approximately thirty-one thousand two hundred  
6 seventy-nine dollars (\$31,279) for a total of two hundred  
7 eighty-one thousand five hundred eleven dollars (\$281,511). It is  
8 the intent of the Legislature that these funds shall be used ~~for a~~  
9 ~~pilot program to develop this concept for every battalion~~  
10 ~~headquarters armory in the California Army National Guard and~~  
11 ~~shall be used~~ in conjunction with privately raised funds donated  
12 through qualified 501(c)(19) Veterans Organizations or 501(c)(3)  
13 Charitable Organizations to enable the completion of Family  
14 Resources Centers at ~~all eight battalion headquarters in the pilot~~  
15 ~~program~~ *the nine battalion headquarters listed in subdivision (a).*  
16 It is the intent of the Legislature that the Military Department, in  
17 concert with private organizations such as the National Guard  
18 Association of California, shall be actively involved in raising  
19 the additional funds from private donations.

20 (c) The funds provided to the Military Department under this  
21 act shall be used only for the construction ~~and operating~~ costs of  
22 the reception and information area, Internet cafe, administrative  
23 support area, conference area, children's play area, families  
24 helping families closet, and general construction costs.

25 *(d) The funds appropriated under this act shall be made*  
26 *available in equal parts to each of the nine armories listed in*  
27 *subdivision (a), and shall be made available for each armory*  
28 *only after sufficient funds or in-kind resources have been*  
29 *obtained from other sources to complete the construction of a*  
30 *Family Resource Center at that armory, as described in*  
31 *subdivision (c).*

32 ~~(d)~~

33 (e) The Military Department is encouraged to leverage  
34 existing resources, such as the Distance Learning Centers,  
35 National Guard Enhanced Classrooms, GUARDNET, NIPR, and  
36 other appropriate means to communicate with deployed National  
37 Guard members, as long as that use does not conflict with federal  
38 law or military regulations. In order to maximize scarce  
39 California resources, the Family Resource Centers should utilize

1 federal networks to the maximum extent allowed by federal law  
2 and federal military regulations.

3 ~~(e)~~

4 *(f)* No funds appropriated by this act shall be used for pay,  
5 allowances, or other related payroll costs for the Military  
6 Department, troop command, division, or brigade headquarters,  
7 or armory personnel.

8 ~~(f)~~

9 *(g)* The Family Resource Centers shall be staffed by  
10 volunteers and existing Military Department or California  
11 National Guard personnel, to include armory repair and  
12 maintenance personnel and full-time unit staffing.  
13 Notwithstanding federal law and federal military regulations, the  
14 Adjutant General shall be the approving authority to allow  
15 volunteers access to armories for the purpose of operating Family  
16 Resource Centers.

17 ~~(g)~~

18 *(h)* It is the intent of the Legislature to allow state employees  
19 to support the construction and operation of these Family  
20 Resource Centers consistent with their existing job requirements.  
21 Furthermore, the Legislature recognizes the importance of these  
22 centers in promoting the accomplishment of the Military  
23 Department mission and improving recruiting and retention in  
24 the California National Guard. Therefore, the Legislature  
25 recognizes that the Adjutant General is authorized under existing  
26 provisions to use funds otherwise made available to the  
27 department to support the creation and operation of Family  
28 Resource Centers in accordance with his or her strategic plan for  
29 the department.

30 ~~(h)~~

31 *(i)* When the availability of Family Resource Centers is  
32 limited, priority of use shall go to family members of deployed  
33 soldiers and airmen of the California National Guard. However,  
34 on a space-available basis, these centers shall also be made  
35 available for use by family members of deployed federal  
36 reservists and active component military personnel.

37 ~~(i)~~

38 *(j)* Within 365 days of the appropriation by this act, the  
39 Military Department shall provide a report to the Legislature  
40 indicating the status of the nine ~~pilot program~~ Family Resource

1 Centers and the number of military families it has served.  
2 Included in the report shall be the amount of funds raised from  
3 private donors. It is the intent of the Legislature to encourage  
4 private donations to ~~this program and for~~ the Military  
5 Department to make the creation and operation of ~~the pilot~~  
6 ~~program and~~ future Family Resource Centers a public-private  
7 endeavor.

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